



The Recreation Fee Program: *Your Fees At Work*

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

Where do my park entrance fees go?

Your fees provide tremendous financial support for projects in Yosemite National Park, as well as in other parks nationwide.

The idea of making fees directly available to national parks began in 1996, when Congress took a bold step and authorized the Recreational Fee Demonstration (Fee Demo) Program, to addressing backlog maintenance shortfalls for federal agencies. Prior to the Fee Demo Program, fees—such as entrance or campground fees—collected at sites in the National Park System were returned to the U.S. Treasury and were not directly available to support park projects.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) replaced the current Fee Demo Program, effective December 8th, 2004. Under this authority, 80% of the revenue stays in the park that collects it. This revenue is earmarked for important park projects, including deferred backlogged maintenance, improved visitor services, and better protection of the park's natural and cultural resources. The remaining 20% revenue is shared with parks that do not collect fees, as well as with National Park Service programs nationwide.

How long will the FLREA Program last?

The Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) replaced the current Fee Authority which began as a pilot program in 1996. All Fee Demo- funded projects must be completed in 2007. The FLREA is authorized through December 2014.

What kinds of user fees does Yosemite National Park collect under the FLREA Program?

Yosemite National Park collects three types of recreation fees:

- Entrance fees, including Golden Age, Golden Eagle, Annual Park, and National Park Passes
(**NOTE:** The Golden Eagle and National Park Passes will be replaced under the new FLREA Authority. The new pass will be called, *The America the Beautiful Pass*. This pass be available, including benefits of pass, in 2007.)
 - Commercial tour bus fees
 - Campground fees
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What Yosemite projects are being supported by the FLREA (or former Fee Demo) Program?

Projects completed in Yosemite National Park include:

- Improved Valley Visitor Center—Yosemite Association bookstore and NPS information desk and lobby (with revenue coming from Fee Demo, The Yosemite Fund, and The Yosemite Association)
- Replaced and expanded the Yosemite Valley shuttle bus fleet—purchasing buses that have cleaner fuel technology and lower noise emissions
- Realigned and rehabilitated trails in the Lower Yosemite Fall area for improved accessibility and visitor experience (with revenue coming from Fee Demo and The Yosemite Fund, a nonprofit park partner)
- Renovated the Valley Visitor Center Theater for orienting park visitors (with revenue coming from Fee Demo and The Yosemite Fund)
- Reconstructed sections of the sewer line that services Yosemite Valley
- Replaced fire rings and picnic tables in 9 out- of- Valley campgrounds

Continuing or soon- to- start projects include:

- Improving Yosemite Valley shuttle bus stops, which includes upgrading signs and seating, installing bike racks and lockers at shuttle stops, establishing new stops where needed, and repairing the road surface.
- Restoring three historic backcountry cabins at Merced Lake Ranger Station, Miguel Meadow Ranger Station, and Ostrander Ski Hut
- Rehabilitating National Park Service restrooms in Yosemite Valley campgrounds

Projects in the planning stages:

- Renovating the Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (formerly East)
- Rehabilitating Curry Village Registration, Lounge, and Amphitheater

How can I learn more about the FLREA Program?

Further description of some of Yosemite National Park's projects is available on the web at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/. Some of these projects, such as the ones listed above, have FLREA (formerly Fee Demo) funding.

Information about the nationwide FLREA (formerly Fee Demo) Program can be found online at www.nps.gov/feedemo.

Also, watch for signs in the park bearing this logo where FLREA (or former Fee Demo) Projects are in progress:

